

SENATE BILL 299  
By Ford J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 15, relative to child safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 15, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 3-15-1001.

(a) There is hereby created a special joint study committee on child safety. The special joint study committee shall examine all issues concerning handgun access and misuse by inadequately supervised children. It shall be the duty of the committee to determine the nature and extent of handgun-related injuries and deaths arising from the actions of inadequately supervised children and to formulate recommendations for improving child safety while respecting the right of law-abiding and responsible adults to own and enjoy handguns. Upon concluding its study, the committee shall report its findings, along with any recommendations, to the governor and to each member of the general assembly.

(b) The special joint study committee on child safety shall consist of eight (8) members as follows:

(1) One (1) member of the senate education committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(2) One (1) member of the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) One (1) member of the senate judiciary committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(4) One (1) member of the senate state and local government committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(5) One (1) member of the house children and family affairs committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(6) One (1) member of the house education committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(7) One (1) member of the house health and human resources committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(8) One (1) member of the house judiciary committee, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for such vacant position.

(c) When transacting the business of the special joint study committee, each member thereof is entitled to compensation for expenses, to be paid in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

(d) The organizational meeting of the special joint committee shall be convened by the speaker of the senate as soon as may be reasonably practicable following appointment of committee members. At the organizational meeting, a chair, vice chair and secretary shall be elected from the committee's membership.

(e) The special joint study committee on child safety shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing in each of the state's three (3) grand divisions. The primary purpose of such public hearings shall be the receipt of public testimony relevant to the committee's assigned topics of inquiry. Public hearings and all other meetings of the committee must comply with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1.

(f) The special joint committee is authorized to request and receive assistance from any department, agency or entity of state government, upon request of the chair or a majority of the committee's membership.

## SECTION 2.

(a) This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

(b) Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-15-1001, is hereby repealed twelve (12) months following the organizational meeting of the special joint committee on child safety.